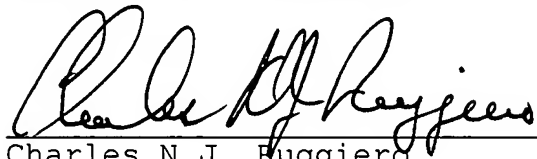


REMARKS

Claims 1 to 28 are pending in the present application.
Favorable consideration is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

January 23, 2004

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles N.J. Ruggiero", is written over a horizontal line.

Charles N.J. Ruggiero
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,468
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero
& Perle, L.L.P.
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor
Stamford CT 06901-2682
Tel: 203-327-4500
Fax: 203-327-6401